

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph at page 16, lines 20-28, with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 3. Primers used for amplification of the α and β chains of IL-12. **(A)** α chain forward primer (SEQ ID NO:1); **(B)** α -chain reverse primer (SEQ ID NO:2); **(C)** β chain forward primer (SEQ ID NO:3); **(D)** β -chain reverse primer (SEQ ID NO:4); and **(E)** β -chain reverse primer without histidine tag (SEQ ID NO:5). The sequence coding for the hexahistidine-tag is represented in *red*, while initiation and stop codons are indicated in *bold*. The Kozak translation initiation sequence is *underlined*.

Please replace the paragraph at page 17, lines 21-30 with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 7. Expression cassettes for the α and β -chains of IL-12 in the series of pIND vectors. **(A)** Expression cassette shared by all vectors of the pIND series with indication of the location of the minimal heat shock promoter ($P_{\Delta HSP}$) and the bovine growth hormone polyadenylation signal (BGH pA); **(B)** and **(C)** 5' and 3' nucleotide sequences and corresponding amino- and carboxy-terminal amino acid sequences of the recombinant α **(B)** and β **(C)** chains with indication of the primer sequences. The α chain forward primer (SEQ ID NO:1) and reverse primer (SEQ ID NO:2) are shown in (B). The β -chain forward primer (SEQ ID NO:3) and reverse primer (SEQ ID NO:4) are shown in (C). The β -chain reverse primer without histidine-tag (SEQ ID NO:5) is also shown in (C).